



# STATE OF INDIANA

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### **More Than a "Fly-Over" State**

As Indiana celebrates its bicentennial this year, the event is changing me by making me really think about all of the valuable Indiana-specific experiences I have had which are shaping me for the future. Country singer Jason Aldean has a well-known song called "Fly Over States." In the song, Indiana is referred to as just a simple "fly-over state." One man in the song asks, "Who'd want to live down there, in the middle of nowhere?" Indiana may not be as large as Texas or as popular as New York state, but it is not just a "fly-over state." From our schools to our museums to our amusement parks and historical landmarks, Indiana provides so many different opportunities and experiences for its citizens and visitors.

As a young Hoosier, I have already had so many great experiences. I've been to Indianapolis to attend Indiana's wonderful state fair. I've attended the Swiss Heritage Days in Berne. I've also viewed the bison at Ouabache State Park in Bluffton. I've ridden the train in French Lick and experienced the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor show in my hometown. I've been to Cataract Falls in Owen County, the largest natural waterfalls in Indiana. I've explored Marengo Caves in Marengo and Blue Springs Caverns near Bedford. All of these experiences are helping me to learn and grow towards the future, and they are ones only my home state can give me.

Many of us forget all the great opportunities that there really are in Indiana that people might not think about. Fortunately, the Bicentennial has made me and others stop and think about how we can continue gaining more Indiana experiences in the future. When Jason Aldean's song asks, "Who'd want to live down there, in the middle of nowhere?" I can honestly say, I do.